Efficiency Promotion Scheme in Madhya Pradesh

†1122. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prescribed number of only 43 students every year allocated to Madhya Pradesh under the efficiency promotion scheme is not less as per population of the State;

(b) whether this number should be increased at least to 150 keeping in view population of the State and whether the State Government has sent any proposal in this regard; and

(c) whether Government have sanctioned any special package for the literacy in tribal areas, and if not whether any scheme is under Government's consideration?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Under the scheme of Upgradation of Merit a total number of 4x370 *i.e.* 1480 awards have been distributed among all the concerned States in the ratio of the tribal population of the respective States. On the basis of this distribution, a total of 172 awards *(i.e.* 43 awards for each of the classes IX, X, XI and XII have been allocated to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) Since the total awards allocated to the State of Madhya Pradesh is already more than 150, the question of State Government sending a proposal to bring this number to 150, does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. Various schemes *(i.e.* Boys/Girls Hostel, Ashram School, Upgradation of Merit, Vocational Training Centre, Post Matric Scholarship, Educational Complex in low literacy pocket, Grant in aid to Voluntary Organisation for Welfare of STs including Coaching and Allied and Award of Special Incentive and Article 275 (1) of the Constitution) which are already being administered by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs aim at improving the literacy in tribal areas.

ST status to more communities in Assam

1123. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a proposal listing the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.